



## DATA CHARACTERISTICS AND KNOWN LIMITATIONS

### CRIMES

- The number of reported homicide, forcible rape, and aggravated assault crimes represents known victims, while with robbery, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson, the number represents known incidents.
- CSU Channel Islands began reporting January 1, 2000.
- Rancho Santa Margarita began reporting July 1, 2000.
- Riverside Community College began reporting January 1, 2000.
- Oakley Police Department started reporting separately from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department on July 1, 2000.
- Compton Police Department reported data for January through August 2000. In September it became a contract agency with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Its data for September through December 2000 is included in the sheriff's department's reports.
- Compton Police Department did not report property values for July through September 2000.
- Orange County Marshal reported data for January through June 2000. In July it became a contract agency with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Its data for July through December 2000 is included in the sheriff's department's reports.
- Trinidad Police Department reported data for January through May 2000. In June it became a contract agency with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department. Its data for June through December 2000 is included in the sheriff's department's reports.
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and its contract agencies implemented a new records management system at the beginning of 2000 and experienced technical problems with the system. Data on 2000 crimes and clearances may not be valid and should not be used to make comparisons.
- Orange Police Department did not report property values for 2000 due to problems with a new records management system.
- Richmond Police Department did not report crimes for motor vehicle thefts in 2000.

### ARRESTS

#### Monthly Arrest and Citation Register (MACR)

- If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, the MACR selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment.
- Felony arrest counts may include some misdemeanor warrants for felony offenses.
- The subjectivity of the classification and labeling process must be considered in the analysis of race/ethnic group data.
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### ADULT PROBATION

- The sources of data are county probation departments' monthly reports of summary data.
- The data include adults placed on supervised probation only. Court probation, diversion, and summary probation are not included.
- Persons are counted once for each jurisdiction. Therefore, data include original grants of probation and do not include subsequent grants of probation to persons already under probation supervision ordered by the same level court in the same county. Also, probationers under jurisdiction of both superior and lower courts (or consolidated courts) and any who are jurisdictional cases of more than one county are counted more than one time in statewide totals.
- Counties that have consolidated their courts only report felony caseloads.
- Mariposa County reported a negative count for the misdemeanor offense level of adult probation caseloads. The negative count is due to more probationers being removed than added for the year 2000.
- San Francisco County data for 2000 is incomplete due to programming problems.
- Yolo County did not report data for 2000 due to programming/computer problems.

### ADULT FELONY ARREST DISPOSITIONS

#### Offender-Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS)

- The OBTS system describes the processing of adults arrested for felony offenses from arrest through final disposition. "Final" disposition refers to a specific legal action which takes place following an adult felony arrest. Final disposition can occur at the law enforcement, prosecutor, or court level.
- Only the final disposition of an arrest event is selected for statistical purposes. Intermediate dispositions (diversion programs, suspended proceedings, reopenings, retrials, or subsequent actions) are not included in the OBTS data.

- If a person is arrested for multiple offenses, the OBTS system selects only the most serious offense, based on the severity of possible punishment. If there are multiple court dispositions, the OBTS system selects the most serious court disposition and the associated offense.
- OBTS data are grouped by the year of disposition regardless of the year in which the arrest occurred.
- Data selected for the 1991 and 1992 OBTS report files include dispositions occurring in the calendar year and processed by the DOJ through August of the following year. The 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996 OBTS report files were accessed in May 1998. The 1997 OBTS file was accessed in September 1998. The 1998 OBTS report file was accessed in November 1999. The 1999 file was accessed in May 2001.
- Due to fluctuations in the collection and processing of the OBTS information, it is estimated that approximately 65-75 percent of the total statewide dispositions of adult felony arrests were reported annually. In the aggregate, the data generally describe state patterns; however, this may not be the case in any particular county.
- OBTS data on state institutional commitments may vary from information compiled and reported by other state agencies because of differences in the data collection systems and criteria.
- The OBTS file includes some persons whose age at time of arrest was less than 18 years, but who were processed as adults according to law and received a final disposition in adult court under provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 602, 707(a), 707(b), 707(c), and 707.1(a).
- Caution should be used when comparing conviction and nonconviction dispositions since budget constraints from 1992 through 1997 necessitated the processing of conviction dispositions on a priority basis.
- Labels were changed from Superior and Lower Court to Court Disposition because of court unifications.
- Dispositions of adult felony arrests in state correctional institutions, while included in Statewide totals, are excluded from county level totals. Some county data may not match previously published data due to changes in the exclusion of the state correctional institutions.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance

- The definition of "domestic violence" is subject to varying interpretations by law enforcement agencies. As a result, different types of domestic relationships are included in the data base.
- Included in the data are any cases which resulted in a report being written by the responding law enforcement agencies. Data, therefore, include both cases where an arrest was made and those where circumstances did not warrant an arrest.

## JAIL PROFILE SURVEY

- The source for the average daily jail population data is the California Board of Corrections' (BOC) "Jail Profile Survey." The CJSC's previously published jail data may not be comparable due to the change in the data source.

*Average Daily Population:* the average daily number of inmates in county jails (daily totals averaged across the month). The number includes inmates housed in single cells, double cells, dormitories (multiple occupancy cells), disabled housing, disciplinary segregation, and administrative segregation. The values reported are based upon each facility's "early morning" count.

*Type I facility:* a local detention facility used for detainment of persons for not more than 96 hours after booking, excluding holidays. Type I facilities may also detain persons on a court order, for their own safekeeping, or sentence persons to a city jail as inmate workers. This facility may also house inmate workers sentenced to the county jail, provided such placement in the facility is made voluntarily by the inmate. As used in this section, the BOC defines an inmate worker as a person assigned to do designed tasks outside his/her cell or dormitory, pursuant to the written policy of the facility, for a minimum of four hours each day on a five-day scheduled work week.

*Type II facility:* a local detention facility for the detention of persons pending an arraignment, during a trial, or a sentence of commitment.

*Type III facility:* a local detention facility used only for persons convicted and sentenced.

*Type IV facility:* a local detention facility or portion of it designated for the housing of inmates eligible under Penal Code Section 1208 for work/education furlough and/or other programs involving inmate access into the community.

Counts for Type I facilities are for the first quarter of each fiscal year (July through September). Due to changes in the Board of Corrections' reporting, the 2000 data were not available in time for inclusion in this publication.

The 2000 counts for Type II, III, and IV facilities are from the quarterly report, July through September. The 1991-1999 counts are for January through December. Data were not available for January through September 1995, therefore, the 1995 data was taken from the October through December quarterly report.

Counts may not add to the total due to projections and rounding of numbers made by the Board of Corrections.

## 2000 PROFILES (to Data Tables)

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